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## National Crime Victimization Survey

# Criminal Victimization, 2005

by Shannan M. Catalano, Ph.D.  
*BJS Statistician*

In 2005 U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced an estimated 23 million violent and property victimizations, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). These criminal victimizations included an estimated 18 million property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft), 5.2 million violent crimes (rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault), and 227,000 personal thefts (pocket picking and purse snatching).

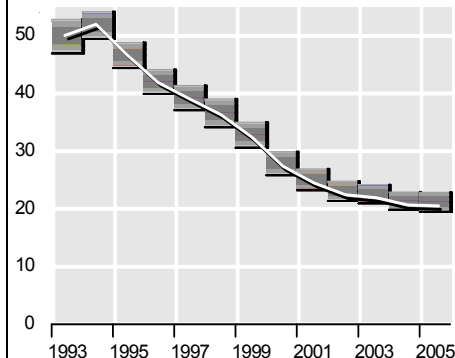
Because of a decline in the rate of theft, the overall property crime rate declined between 2004 and 2005. Victimization rates for every other major type of crime measured by the survey were unchanged. For completed robbery with injury and simple assault without minor injury, aggregate rates for the period 2004-05 were somewhat lower than those for 2002-03. The 1-year (2004-2005) and 2-year (2002-03 to 2004-05) change estimates indicate that at the national level crime rates remain stabilized at the lowest overall levels experienced since 1973.

Between 1993 (when the NCVS was redesigned) and 2005, the violent crime rate decreased 58%, from 50 to 21 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older. Property crime declined 52%, from 319 to 154 per 1,000 households.

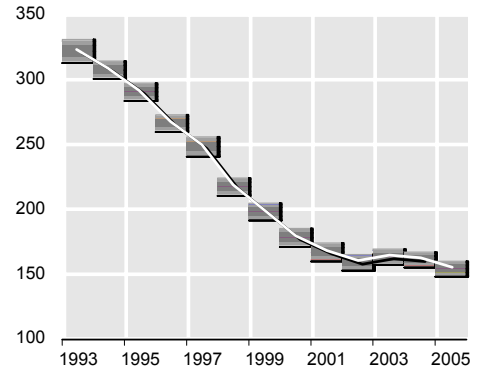
## Highlights

**The overall violent crime rate remained unchanged between 2004 and 2005, while the property crime rate declined**

Violent victimizations per  
1,000 population age 12 or over



Property victimizations per  
1,000 households



Each vertical bar shows the range within which the true victimization rate was likely to fall.  
For discussion of displaying estimates, see <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/dvctue.htm>>.

- For most crimes, aggregated rates for the two-year period 2004-05 were unchanged from 2002-03, while minor declines were seen for some forms of robbery and simple assault without injury.
- From 1993 to 2005, the violent crime rate was down 58%, from 50 to 21 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.
- During 2005, 24% of all violent crime incidents were committed by an armed offender, including 9% by an offender with a firearm.

- The rate of firearm violence increased between 2004 and 2005, from 1.4 to 2.0 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.
- Males were most vulnerable to violence by strangers (54% of the violence against males), while females were most often victimized by non-strangers (64%).
- Males, blacks, and persons age 24 or younger continued to be victimized at higher rates than females, whites, and persons age 25 or older in 2005.
- During 2005, 47% of all violent victimizations and 40% of all property crimes were reported to the police.

In 2005, according to victims, 47% of violent crimes were reported to the police, up from 43% in 1993. The proportion of property crimes reported to the police also increased to 40% in 2005, from 33% in 1993.

### Criminal victimization, 2004-05

The NCVS collects data on nonfatal crimes against persons age 12 or older, reported and not reported to the police, from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. (See *Methodology*, page 11.) Information on homicide is obtained from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program of the FBI.

#### Crimes measured by the NCVS

Violent crimes include rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. Property crimes include household burglary, motor vehicle theft, and theft.

The overall violent crime rate remained stable between 2004 and 2005, while the overall property crime rate declined due to a drop in household theft from 123 to 116 victimizations per 1,000 households.

### Murder/nonnegligent manslaughter

Based on preliminary 2005 data from the FBI, the number of persons murdered in the United States increased 4.8% between 2004 and 2005. In 2004, 16,140 persons were murdered; the estimate for 2005 is about 16,910 victims of murder. Based

on these preliminary data, the homicide rate for 2005 is an estimated 5.7 per 100,000 individuals.

Preliminary data suggest that while increases in the number of murders occurred in all regions of the country, the greatest increases were in the Midwest (5.8%) and South (5.3%).

**Table 1. Criminal victimization, numbers and rates, 2004 and 2005**

Type of crime	Number of victimizations		Victimization rate (per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households)	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
All crimes	24,061,140	23,440,720	~	~
<b>Violent crimes<sup>a</sup></b>	5,182,670	5,173,720	21.4	21.2
Rape/sexual assault	209,880	191,670	0.9	0.8
Robbery	501,820	624,850	2.1	2.6
Assault	4,470,960	4,357,190	18.5	17.8
Aggravated	1,030,080	1,052,260	4.3	4.3
Simple	3,440,880	3,304,930	14.2	13.5
<b>Personal theft</b>	224,070	227,070	0.9	0.9
<b>Property crimes</b>	18,654,400	18,039,930	161.1	154.0*
Household burglary	3,427,690	3,456,220	29.6	29.5
Motor vehicle theft	1,014,770	978,120	8.8	8.4
Theft	14,211,940	13,605,590	122.8	116.2*

Note: The total population age 12 or older was an estimated 241,703,710 in 2004 and 244,493,430 in 2005.

The total number of households was 115,775,570 in 2004 and 117,110,800 in 2005.

~Not applicable.

\*The difference from 2004 to 2005 is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>The NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder. See *Methodology*, pages 11 and 12.

### Murder and victim characteristics, 2004

In 2004, the year in which the most recent comprehensive data are available, the FBI reported a total of 16,140 murders or nonnegligent manslaughters. The total represented a 2.4% decrease from the 16,530 murders recorded in 2003. The FBI defines murder in its annual *Crime in the United States* as the willful (nonnegligent) killing of one human being by another. Justifiable homicides, attempted murder, and deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident are not included. The FBI's UCR program collects data on murder from over 17,000 city, county, and State law enforcement agencies.

Though the rate and level of homicide change from year to year, the relationship between victim characteristics and homicide tends to remain the same. For example, as in previous years, in 2004 —

- Most murder victims were male (78%).

- When the race of the murder victim was known, about half were white (49.8%), almost half were black (47.6%), and about 2.6% were of another race.
- When information on the victim-offender relationship was available, 77% of the offenders were known to the victim, while 23% were a stranger to the victim.
- Firearms were used in the majority of murders (70%).
- Offenders were most often male (90%) and age 18 or older (92%).
- Homicide is generally intraracial.
- Arguments were the most often cited circumstance leading to murder (44%).
- Homicides occurred in connection with another felony (such as rape, robbery, or arson) in 23% of incidents.

## Criminal victimization, 2002-03 and 2004-05

Comparing the 2-year average annual rates, criminal victimization changed somewhat in three sub-categories of crime rates from 2002-03 to 2004-05 (text box, table 2).

During this period there were indications that the average annual rates of attempted or threatened violence, completed robbery with injury, and simple assault without injury declined somewhat from 2002-03 to 2004-05.

### Estimating change in crime victimization rates

Since 1995 the NCVS has undergone sample reductions because of the escalating costs of data collection. At the same time, the rate of crime remains at the lowest levels in the past thirty years. The combination of the two — fewer survey respondents and less crime — has resulted in a diminished ability to detect statistically significant year-to-year changes in rates.

Comparing 2-year average rates provides a picture of the continuing decline in some categories of crime. Annual detailed tables of victimization counts and per capita rates are located on the BJS website at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cv05.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cv05.htm).

**Table 2. Criminal victimization, average annual number and rates, 2002-2003 and 2004-05**

Type of crime	Average annual number of victimizations		Average annual victimization rate (per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households)		Percent change <sup>a</sup>
	2002-03	2004-05	2002-03	2004-05	
<b>All crimes</b>	23,624,420	23,750,930	~	~	
<b>Personal crimes<sup>b</sup></b>	5,541,620	5,403,770	23.5	22.2	-5.6%
Crimes of violence	5,371,570	5,178,200	22.8	21.3	-6.6
Completed violence <sup>c</sup>	1,704,040	1,697,830	7.2	7.0	-3.5
Attempted/threatened violence	3,667,530	3,480,370	15.6	14.3	-8.1‡
Rape/Sexual assault	223,290	200,780	0.9	0.8	-12.9
Rape/Attempted rape	142,380	115,570	0.6	0.5	-21.4
Rape	81,320	64,080	0.3	0.3	-23.7
Attempted rape	61,060	51,500	0.3	0.2	-18.3
Sexual assault	80,910	85,210	0.3	0.4	2.0
Robbery	554,310	563,340	2.4	2.3	-1.6
Completed/property taken	381,880	357,280	1.6	1.5	-9.4
With injury	165,090	126,520	0.7	0.5	-25.8‡
Without injury	216,780	230,770	0.9	0.9	3.1
Attempted to take property	172,440	206,060	0.7	0.8	15.7
With injury	48,160	67,550	0.2	0.3	35.9
Without injury	124,290	138,520	0.5	0.6	7.9
Assault	4,593,970	4,414,080	19.5	18.2	-6.9
Aggravated	1,045,610	1,041,170	4.4	4.3	-3.6
With injury	338,930	354,050	1.4	1.5	1.2
Threatened with weapon	706,680	686,890	3.0	2.8	-5.9
Simple	3,548,360	3,372,910	15.1	13.9	-7.9
With minor injury	837,770	846,680	3.6	3.5	-2.1
Without injury	2,710,590	2,526,230	11.5	10.4	-9.7‡
Personal theft <sup>d</sup>	170,050	225,570	0.7	0.9	28.5
<b>Property crimes</b>	18,082,800	18,347,170	161.1	157.6	-2.2%
Household burglary	3,225,670	3,441,960	28.7	29.6	2.8
Completed	2,703,910	2,904,810	24.1	24.9	3.5
Forcible entry	1,016,990	1,082,000	9.1	9.3	2.5
Unlawful entry without force	1,686,920	1,822,820	15.0	15.7	4.1
Attempted forcible entry	521,770	537,150	4.6	4.6	-0.8
Motor vehicle theft	1,010,620	996,450	9.0	8.6	-5.0
Completed	772,070	776,940	6.9	6.7	-3.0
Attempted	238,550	219,520	2.1	1.9	-11.3
Theft	13,846,520	13,908,770	123.4	119.4	-3.2
Completed <sup>e</sup>	13,379,380	13,350,110	119.2	114.6	-3.8
Less than \$50	4,188,450	4,096,570	37.3	35.2	-5.7
\$50-\$249	4,603,610	4,751,350	41.0	40.8	-0.5
\$250 or more	3,323,300	3,245,710	29.6	27.9	-5.9
Attempted	467,140	558,660	4.2	4.8	15.3

Note: The total population age 12 or older was 231,589,260 in 2002; 239,305,990 in 2003; 241,703,710 in 2004; and 244,493,430 in 2005. The total number of households was 110,323,840 in 2002; 114,136,930 in 2003; 115,775,570 in 2004; and 117,110,800 in 2005.

~Not applicable.

‡The difference from 2002-2003 to 2004-05 is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Percent change was calculated using unrounded rates.

<sup>b</sup>The NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

<sup>c</sup>Completed violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery with or without injury, aggravated assault with injury, and simple assault with minor injury.

<sup>d</sup>Includes pocket picking, completed purse snatching, and attempted purse snatching.

<sup>e</sup>Includes thefts with unknown losses.

## Comparing victim characteristics, 2002-03 and 2004-05

Violent victimization rates remained unchanged from 2002-03 to 2004-05 for most demographic categories of victims examined.

### Gender

Violent crime rates for females declined somewhat from 2002-03 to 2004-05.

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2002-03	2004-05	Percent change
Male	25.9	25.2	-2.6%
Female	19.9	17.6	-11.7‡

‡The 2002-03 and 2004-05 difference is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

### Marital status

Rates of violence against persons who were never married declined somewhat from 2002-03 to 2004-05, from 42 to 38 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2002-03	2004-05	Percent change
Never married	42.4	38.4	-9.5%‡
Married	10.4	10.0	-3.9
Widowed	5.3	5.0	-4.5
Divorced/separated	33.0	32.3	-2.0

‡The 2002-03 and 2004-05 difference is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

### Age

For persons 16 to 19 years old, violent crime rates fell from 56 to 45 victimizations per 1,000 persons. Despite apparent differences, there was no detectable change for persons in other age groups.

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2002-03	2004-05	Percent change
12-15 years	48.1	46.9	-2.5%
16-19 years	55.6	45.0	-19.0*
20-24 years	45.4	45.0	-0.9
25-34 years	26.3	23.7	-10.0
35-49 years	18.3	17.7	-3.5
50-64 years	10.5	11.2	6.8
65+ years	2.7	2.3	-15.1

\*The 2002-03 and 2004-05 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

## Annual household income

There are indications that the rate of violent victimization declined for persons in households earning less than \$7,500 per year. There was no detectable change for persons in other income categories.

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2002-03	2004-05	Percent change
Less than \$7,500	47.7	38.1	-20.2%‡
\$7,500-\$14,999	31.1	32.9	5.6
\$15,000-\$24,999	28.1	27.1	-3.5
\$25,000-\$34,999	26.0	24.1	-7.4
\$35,000-\$49,999	23.5	22.0	-6.1
\$50,000-\$74,999	20.8	21.6	3.8
\$75,000 or more	18.2	16.7	-8.2

‡The 2002-03 and 2004-05 difference is significant at the 90%-confidence level.

## Region and location of residence

Crime rates remained stable for persons residing in all regions of the country (Northeast, Midwest, South, and West). Between 2002-03 and 2004-05, violent crime decreased 12% for persons residing in suburban areas but remained unchanged in urban and rural areas.

	Average annual rate of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older		
	2002-03	2004-05	Percent change
Northeast	19.9	17.7	-11.4%
Midwest	24.7	23.4	-5.3
South	20.4	19.1	-6.5
West	27.3	25.7	-5.8
Urban	30.6	29.4	-3.9%
Suburban	20.7	18.3	-11.7*
Rural	18.0	18.1	0.7

\*The 2002-03 and 2004-05 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

## Comparing household characteristics, 2002-03 and 2004-05

### Annual household income

Property crime rates were unchanged for households in all income categories between 2002-03 and 2004-05.

	Average annual rate of property crimes per 1,000 households		
	2002-03	2004-05	Percent change
Less than \$7,500	196.8	198.8	1.0%
\$7,500-\$14,999	167.2	177.9	6.4
\$15,000-\$24,999	175.7	169.0	-3.8
\$25,000-\$34,999	171.3	171.5	0.1
\$35,000-\$49,999	176.3	168.1	-4.7
\$50,000-\$74,999	163.3	161.4	-1.2
\$75,000 or more	173.3	173.7	0.2

### Region, location, and homeownership

A decline of 12% in property crime rates was measured in the Northeast, 2002-03 to 2004-05. No difference in rates was observed in other regions of the country.

Despite apparent changes, rates of property crime remained stable for households in urban (207), suburban (142), and rural (130) areas.

From 2002-03 to 2004-05, average annual property crime rates remained stable for residential renters and homeowners.

	Average annual rate of property crimes per 1,000 households		
	2002-03	2004-05	Percent change
Northeast	119.5	105.5	-11.7%*
Midwest	158.0	162.2	2.7
South	154.3	152.5	-1.1
West	213.5	205.3	-3.8
Urban	215.8	207.3	-3.9%
Suburban	145.1	142.3	-1.9
Rural	127.6	129.8	1.7
Owned	140.0	139.6	-0.3%
Rented	206.7	196.8	-4.8

\*The 2002-03 and 2004-05 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

**Table 3. Rates of criminal victimization and percent change, 1993 and 2005**

Type of crime	Victimization rates (per 1,000 persons age 12 or older or per 1,000 households)		Percent change <sup>a</sup> 1993-2005
	1993	2005	
<b>Personal crimes<sup>b</sup></b>	52.2	22.1	-57.7%*
Crimes of violence	49.9	21.2	-57.6*
Completed violence <sup>c</sup>	15.0	6.8	-54.8*
Attempted/threatened violence	34.9	14.4	-58.8*
Rape/Sexual assault	2.5	0.8	-68.6*
Rape/Attempted rape	1.6	0.5	-66.7*
Rape	1.0	0.3	-71.6*
Attempted rape	0.7	0.2	-64.5*
Sexual assault	0.8	0.3	-68.5*
Robbery	6.0	2.6	-57.4*
Completed/property taken	3.8	1.7	-55.3*
With injury	1.3	0.6	-55.1*
Without injury	2.5	1.1	-55.4*
Attempted to take property	2.2	0.9	-61.0*
With injury	0.4	0.3	-34.1
Without injury	1.8	0.6	-67.0*
Assault	41.4	17.8	-57.0*
Aggravated	12.0	4.3	-64.1*
With injury	3.4	1.4	-60.3*
Threatened with weapon	8.6	3.0	-65.7*
Simple	29.4	13.5	-54.0*
With minor injury	6.1	3.3	-46.7*
Without injury	23.3	10.3	-55.9*
Personal theft <sup>d</sup>	2.3	0.9	-59.6*
<b>Property crimes</b>	318.9	154.0	-51.7%*
Household burglary	58.2	29.5	-49.3*
Completed	47.2	24.8	-47.5*
Forcible entry	18.1	9.1	-49.6*
Unlawful entry without force	29.1	15.6	-46.2*
Attempted forcible entry	10.9	4.7	-56.5*
Motor vehicle theft	19.0	8.4	-56.0*
Completed	12.4	6.6	-46.7*
Attempted	6.6	1.7	-73.7*
Theft	241.7	116.2	-51.9*
Completed <sup>e</sup>	230.1	112.0	-51.3*
Less than \$50	98.7	34.8	-64.7*
\$50-\$249	76.1	39.8	-47.8*
\$250 or more	41.6	27.6	-33.7*
Attempted	11.6	4.2	-64.0*

Note: In 1993 the total population age 12 or older was 211,524,770; and 244,493,430 in 2005. The total number of households in 1993 was 99,927,410; and 117,110,800 in 2005.

\*The difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

<sup>a</sup>Differences between the annual rates shown do not take into account changes that may have occurred during interim years.

<sup>b</sup>The NCVS is based on interviews with victims and therefore cannot measure murder.

<sup>c</sup>Completed violent crimes include rape, sexual assault, robbery with or without injury, aggravated assault with injury, and simple assault with minor injury.

<sup>d</sup>Includes pocket picking, completed purse snatching, and attempted purse snatching.

<sup>e</sup>Includes theft with unknown losses.

## Victimization trends, 1993-2005

The rate of every major violent and property crime measured in the NCVS — rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, simple assault, burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft — fell significantly between 1993 and 2005 (table 3).

### Violent crime

The overall violent crime rate fell 58% from 50 to 21 violent victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older between 1993 to 2005 (figure 1). Other significant declines were measured in the rates of rape or sexual assault (down 69%), robbery (down 57%), aggravated assault (down 64%), and simple assault (down 54%).

### Property crime

From 1993 through 2005, the rate of overall property crime declined significantly, as did the rate for all major types of property crime (figure 2). The household burglary rate fell 49%; the motor vehicle theft rate fell 56%; and the theft rate fell 52%. The declines in motor vehicle theft and theft were greater for attempted crimes than for completed crimes.

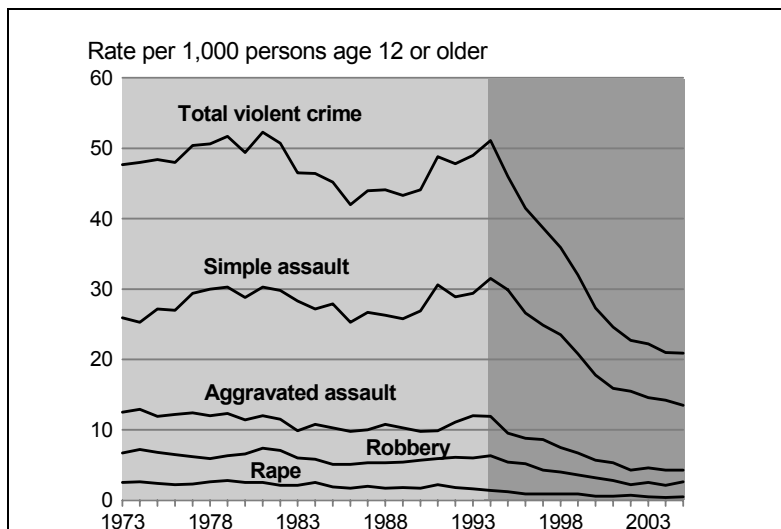


Figure 1

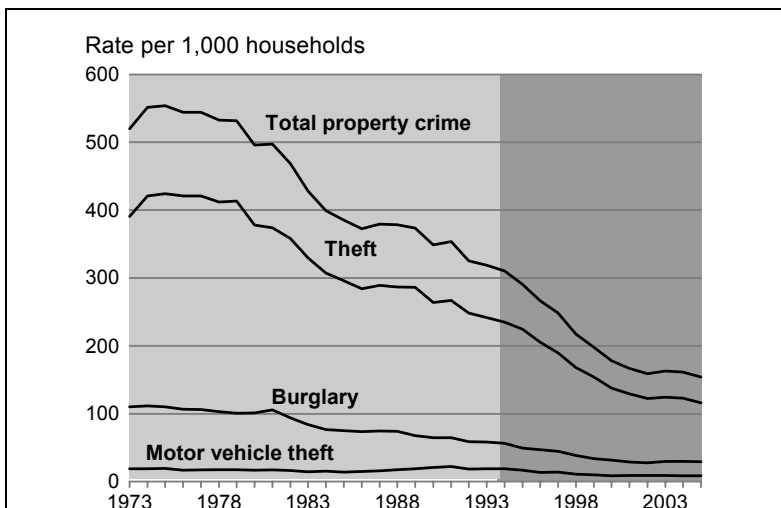


Figure 2

Note: Data collected before the NCVS redesign during 1992 (the lightly shaded areas) have been made comparable to the post-redesign data. All data was re-estimated to account for the effects of the redesign. Rape excludes sexual assault for this trend analysis.

## Characteristics of victims, 1993-2005

Violent victimization declined in every demographic group between 1993 and 2005 (table 4). For males, the rate of violence declined 57%, from 60 to 26 victimizations per 1,000 males. The rate of violence against females declined by 58%, from 41 to 17 victimizations per 1,000 females.

In 2003 new definitions for race and ethnicity were implemented in the NCVS survey that prevent long term comparisons (See *Methodology* on page 11 for further details). Using these new definitions, in 2005 the rate of violence for whites was 20.1 per 1,000; for blacks, 27.0 per 1,000; and for other races (American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander), 13.9 per 1,000.

Violent crime rates declined 39% for victims residing in households earning \$15,000 to \$24,999 per year, from 49 to 30 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older. Violent crime rates for individuals living in households in all other income categories declined by nearly 50% or more.

Property crime rates fell for every demographic group considered between 1993 and 2005 (figures 4, 5,

and 6 and table 5). Households in every region of the country experienced declines in property crime

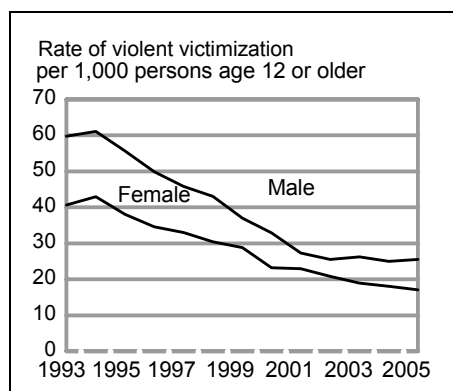


Figure 3 - Violent crime and gender

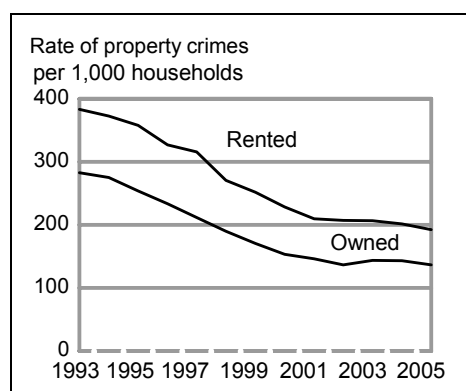


Figure 4 - Property crime and homeownership

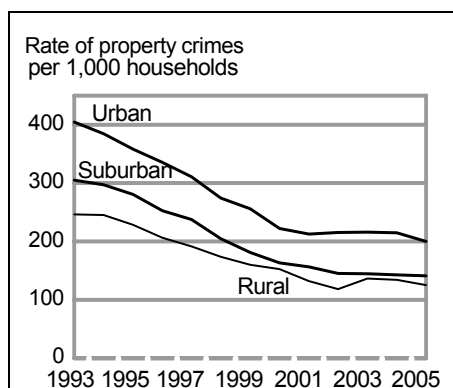


Figure 5 - Property crime and location of residence

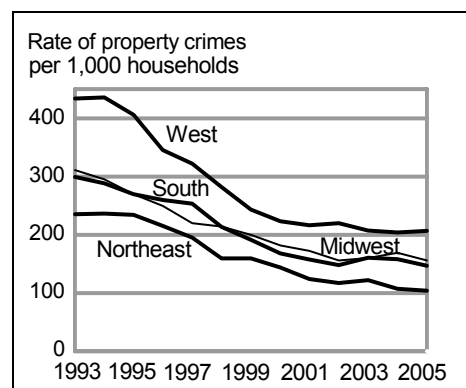


Figure 6 - Property crime and region

Table 4. Violent victimization rates for selected demographic groups, 1993-2005

Demographic characteristic of victim	Number of violent crimes per 1,000 persons age 12 or older														Percent change, 1993-2005
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005		
<b>Gender</b>															
Male	59.8	61.1	55.7	49.9	45.8	43.1	37.0	32.9	27.3	25.5	26.3	25.0	25.5	-57.4%*	
Female	40.7	43.0	38.1	34.6	33.0	30.4	28.8	23.2	23.0	20.8	19.0	18.1	17.1	-58.0*	
<b>Race</b>															
White	47.9	50.5	44.7	40.9	38.3	36.3	31.9	27.1	24.5	22.8	21.5	21.0	20.1	-58.0%*	
Black	67.4	61.3	61.1	52.3	49.0	41.7	41.6	35.3	31.2	27.9	29.1	26.0	27.0	-59.9*	
Other race	39.8	49.9	41.9	33.2	28.0	27.6	24.5	20.7	18.2	14.7	16.0	12.7	13.9	-65.1*	
Two or more races	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	67.7	51.6	83.6	--	
<b>Hispanic origin</b>															
Hispanic	55.2	61.6	57.3	44.0	43.1	32.8	33.8	28.4	29.5	23.6	24.2	18.2	25.0	-54.7%*	
Non-Hispanic	49.5	50.7	45.2	41.6	38.3	36.8	32.4	27.7	24.5	23.0	22.3	21.9	20.6	-58.4*	
<b>Annual household income</b>															
Less than \$7,500	84.7	86.0	77.8	65.3	71.0	63.8	57.5	60.3	46.6	45.5	49.9	38.4	37.7	-55.5%*	
\$7,500-\$14,999	56.4	60.7	49.8	52.1	51.2	49.3	44.5	37.8	36.9	31.5	30.8	39.0	26.5	-53.0*	
\$15,000-\$24,999	49.0	50.7	48.9	44.1	40.1	39.4	35.3	31.8	31.8	30.0	26.3	24.4	30.1	-38.6*	
\$25,000-\$34,999	51.0	47.3	47.1	43.0	40.2	42.0	37.9	29.8	29.1	27.0	24.9	22.1	26.1	-48.8*	
\$35,000-\$49,999	45.6	47.0	45.8	43.0	38.7	31.7	30.3	28.5	26.3	25.6	21.4	21.6	22.4	-50.9*	
\$50,000-\$74,999	44.0	48.0	44.6	37.5	33.9	32.0	33.3	23.7	21.0	18.7	22.9	22.1	21.1	-52.0*	
\$75,000 or more	41.3	39.5	37.3	30.5	30.7	33.1	22.9	22.3	18.5	19.0	17.5	17.0	16.4	-60.3*	

Note: Annual rates are based on interviews conducted during the calendar year. Following guidelines from the Office of Management and Budget, beginning in 2003 NCVS collected race separately for persons identifying with one race and those identifying with two or more races. Because about 0.9% of survey respondents identified two or more races, the impact on victimization rates for each race is small. See *Methodology*, page 11.

--Not available.

\*1993-2005 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

**Table 5. Property crime rates by selected household characteristics, 1993-2005**

Demographic characteristic of household	Number of property crimes per 1,000 households													Percent change, 1993-2005
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	
<b>Region</b>														
Northeast	235.6	236.6	234.1	215.2	195.6	159.3	159.5	143.7	123.9	117.0	122.1	107.1	103.9	-55.9%*
Midwest	311.2	295.2	269.6	249.6	219.9	214.0	199.9	181.9	172.3	155.8	160.2	168.8	155.8	-49.9*
South	299.4	288.6	269.9	259.9	253.8	213.5	191.4	167.8	157.5	147.8	160.5	158.3	146.8	-51.0*
West	434.5	436.1	406.0	345.6	322.2	282.3	243.1	223.4	216.4	219.9	207.4	204.0	206.5	-52.5*
<b>Ownership</b>														
Owned	282.5	275.2	253.7	233.7	211.7	189.6	170.4	153.4	146.3	136.4	143.5	142.8	136.5	-51.7%*
Rented	383.5	372.7	357.7	327.1	316.0	270.6	251.9	228.3	209.6	207.0	206.4	201.4	192.3	-49.9*
<b>Location of residence</b>														
Urban	404.8	384.7	358.3	335.8	311.1	274.2	256.3	222.1	212.8	215.3	216.3	214.7	200.0	-50.6%*
Suburban	305.1	297.2	280.6	252.6	238.0	204.5	181.4	163.7	156.7	145.3	144.8	143.2	141.4	-53.7*
Rural	246.4	245.2	228.4	206.4	191.7	173.5	159.8	152.6	131.9	118.3	136.6	134.4	125.1	-49.2*
<b>Annual household income</b>														
Less than \$7,500	305.9	299.6	304.3	282.7	258.8	209.0	220.8	220.9	184.6	188.9	204.6	197.1	200.6	-34.4%*
\$7,500-\$14,999	285.9	299.1	267.1	247.5	236.3	229.8	200.1	167.1	181.6	166.7	167.7	181.5	174.3	-39.0*
\$15,000-\$24,999	307.0	308.1	289.8	273.1	242.4	211.0	214.9	193.1	179.2	172.1	179.2	167.8	170.4	-44.5*
\$25,000-\$34,999	336.7	305.2	294.8	285.1	260.3	233.8	199.1	192.2	170.4	161.7	180.7	169.3	173.9	-48.4*
\$35,000-\$49,999	342.7	326.9	301.5	287.6	271.7	221.7	207.6	192.9	176.4	175.4	177.1	176.2	159.9	-53.3*
\$50,000-\$74,999	374.4	364.1	333.2	284.0	270.9	248.6	213.6	181.9	178.8	158.3	168.1	167.0	155.9	-58.4*
\$75,000 or more	400.3	356.0	350.4	304.6	292.8	248.6	220.4	197.2	180.0	169.8	176.4	176.5	171.0	-57.3*

Note: Annual rates are based on interviews conducted during the calendar year.

See the *Methodology* in <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cvusmeth.pdf>>.

\*1993-2005 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

**Table 6. Rates of violent crime and personal theft, by gender, race, Hispanic origin, and age, 2005**

Demographic characteristic of victim		Victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older						
		Violent crimes					Personal theft	
		Population	All	Rape/sexual assault	Robbery	Total		Assault
Aggra-vated	Simple							
Gender								
Male	118,937,730	25.5	0.1*	3.8	21.5	5.6	15.9	0.8
Female	125,555,710	17.1	1.4	1.4	14.3	3.1	11.2	1.0
Race								
White	200,263,410	20.1	0.6	2.2	17.2	3.8	13.4	0.9
Black	29,477,880	27.0	1.8	4.6	20.6	7.6	13.0	1.7
Other race	12,522,090	13.9	0.5*	3.0	10.4	2.5*	7.9	0.2*
Two or more races	2,230,050	83.6	3.8*	1.8*	78.0	16.6	61.5	0.0*
Hispanic origin								
Hispanic	31,812,270	25.0	1.1*	4.0	19.9	5.9	14.0	1.0*
Non-Hispanic	211,629,880	20.6	0.7	2.4	17.5	4.1	13.4	0.9
Age								
12-15	17,061,940	44.0	1.2*	3.5	39.3	8.7	30.6	1.3*
16-19	16,524,940	44.2	3.2	7.0	33.9	9.7	24.2	1.6*
20-24	20,363,570	46.9	1.1*	5.5	40.3	10.0	30.3	1.5*
25-34	39,607,310	23.6	0.7*	3.1	19.9	4.7	15.2	1.0
35-49	65,707,720	17.5	0.6*	1.9	15.0	3.2	11.8	1.0
50-64	50,164,650	11.4	0.6*	1.4	9.3	2.4	7.0	0.6*
65 or older	35,063,310	2.4	0.0*	0.6*	1.9	0.8*	1.1	0.4*

Note: The National Crime Victimization Survey includes as violent crime rape, sexual assault, robbery, and assault. Because the NCVS interviews persons about their victimizations, murder and manslaughter cannot be included. Racial and ethnic categories in 2005 are not comparable to categories used prior to 2003.

See *Methodology* on page 11 for a discussion.

\*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

rates of 50% or more. Property crime rates for households that owned or rented their homes also showed a decline of at least 50%.

Households in urban areas (down 51%), suburban areas (down 54%), and rural areas (down 49%) experienced similar declines in property crime rates from 1993 to 2005.

Households with annual incomes of less than \$15,000 experienced smaller declines in property crime rates than households with annual incomes of \$25,000 or more between 1993 and 2005.

**Table 7. Rates of violent crime and personal theft, by household income, marital status, region, and location of residence of victims, 2005**

Demographic characteristic of victim	Population	Victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older						
		Violent crimes						Per- sonal theft
		All	Rape/ sexual assault	Robbery	Total	Assault Aggra- vated	Simple	
<b>Household income</b>								
Less than \$7,500	8,367,490	37.7	2.2*	5.6	29.9	9.7	20.1	3.2*
\$7,500-\$14,999	14,798,200	26.5	0.6*	4.9	21.0	6.8	14.2	1.6*
\$15,000-\$24,999	22,414,530	30.1	1.4*	3.5	25.2	6.4	18.8	1.1*
\$25,000-\$34,999	22,504,200	26.1	1.7	2.8	21.6	5.2	16.4	1.0*
\$35,000-\$49,999	30,575,740	22.4	0.9*	2.5	19.0	4.3	14.7	1.1*
\$50,000-\$74,999	35,692,930	21.1	0.5*	1.8	18.8	4.3	14.5	0.6*
\$75,000 or more	52,979,190	16.4	0.6*	2.1	13.7	2.6	11.1	1.0
<b>Marital status</b>								
Never married	79,664,210	37.4	1.4	4.8	31.2	7.7	23.5	1.5
Married	122,198,090	10.3	0.2*	1.0	9.0	2.4	6.6	0.5
Divorced/separated	26,079,910	31.7	1.5	3.8	26.4	5.2	21.2	1.1*
Widowed	14,312,360	6.1	0.8*	1.4*	4.0	0.5*	3.6	0.8*
<b>Region</b>								
Northeast	43,951,390	19.3	0.6*	2.4	16.3	3.6	12.7	0.9
Midwest	57,895,360	22.8	0.7	3.2	18.9	4.7	14.2	0.9
South	88,262,190	18.5	0.9	2.1	15.5	3.8	11.7	1.1
West	54,384,500	25.2	0.9	2.7	21.6	5.2	16.4	0.7
<b>Location of residence</b>								
Urban	67,384,160	29.8	1.5	4.7	23.6	6.0	17.6	1.6
Suburban	120,424,060	18.6	0.7	1.9	16.0	3.6	12.4	0.6
Rural	56,685,220	16.4	0.1*	1.4	14.9	3.8	11.0	0.9

Note: The National Crime Victimization Survey includes as violent crime rape, sexual assault, robbery, and assault. Because the NCVS interviews persons about their victimizations, murder and manslaughter cannot be included.

\*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

### Characteristics of violent crime victims, 2005

Males, blacks, and persons age 24 or younger continued to be victimized at higher rates than females, whites, and persons age 25 or older in 2005 (table 6).

#### Gender of victim

Males were victims of overall violent crime, robbery, total assault, aggravated assaults and simple assault at rates higher than females. Females were more likely than males to be victims of rape or sexual assault.

#### Race of victim

Blacks were victims of overall violence, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault at rates higher than those for whites in 2005. Blacks were also more likely than persons of other races to be victims of violence.

Beginning in 2003 survey respondents were able to self-identify with more than one race. In 2005, persons of two or more races were victims of overall violence at significantly higher rates than whites, blacks, and persons of other races.

#### Hispanic origin of victim

Hispanics were victims of overall violence, robbery, and aggravated assault at rates somewhat higher than those of non-Hispanics in 2005. Hispanics and non-Hispanics were equally likely to experience rape or sexual assault, simple assault, and theft.

#### Age of victim

As in previous years, there was a general pattern of decreasing crime rates for persons of older age groups. Persons age 25 or older experienced lower victimization rates than younger individuals. Persons age 16-19 experienced robbery at rates higher

than persons in other age groups, except ages 20-24.

#### Household income

There was a general pattern of decreasing victimization rates for persons residing in households with higher incomes. Persons in households with an annual income under \$7,500 were more likely to be victims of robbery and assault than members of households with incomes of \$35,000 or more. Persons of all income categories were equally likely to experience rape or sexual assault (table 7).

Differences in robbery rates among persons in income categories below \$35,000 were not statistically significant.

#### Marital status of victims

Persons who were never married experienced somewhat higher rates of overall violence than did persons of other marital status categories. Persons who were married and widowed were equally likely to experience rape or sexual assault. Persons who were married were more likely than persons who were divorced or separated to experience assault. Married and divorced or separated persons were equally likely to experience robbery.

#### Region

Despite apparent differences, persons residing in the Midwest (3.2 per 1,000), Northeast (2.4 per 1,000), and West (2.7 per 1,000) were equally likely to experience robbery victimizations. There was some indication that the rate of robbery was lower in the South than in the Midwest.

#### Location of residence

Urban residents experienced overall crimes of violence, robbery, and assault at rates higher than those for suburban and rural residents. Except for the crime of rape or sexual assault, suburban and rural residents had statistically similar rates of violence.



## Characteristics of households experiencing property crime, 2005

### Annual household income

Households earning less than \$7,500 per year were more likely to experience burglary than households earning more than \$15,000 per year. While theft rates varied across income levels, no patterns emerged (table 8).

### Region, locality, and homeownership

Rates of overall property crime were lowest for households in the Northeast (104 per 1,000). Households in the West experienced higher overall property victimization rates (206 per 1,000) than those in other regions. For households located in the South and Midwest, the rates of overall property crime were statistically similar.

Northeastern households were less likely to experience burglary than were households in other regions of the country.

Western households continued to experience the highest rates of motor vehicle theft in 2005. Northeastern and Midwestern households were equally likely to experience motor vehicle theft.

**Table 8. Property crime rates, by household income, region, residence, and homeownership of households victimized, 2005**

Characteristic of household	Number of households	Victimizations per 1,000 households			
		Total	Burglary	Motor vehicle theft	Theft
Household income					
Less than \$7,500	5,099,390	200.6	55.1	9.4	136.0
\$7,500-\$14,999	8,611,570	174.3	46.7	9.8	117.8
\$15,000-\$24,999	11,648,340	170.4	41.7	12.4	116.3
\$25,000-\$34,999	11,100,360	173.9	33.4	9.9	130.6
\$35,000-\$49,999	14,111,900	159.9	30.2	6.6	123.0
\$50,000-\$74,999	15,538,130	155.9	23.2	7.2	125.5
\$75,000 or more	21,484,030	171.0	23.9	7.1	140.0
Region					
Northeast	21,191,890	103.9	18.1	5.9	79.9
Midwest	27,836,820	155.8	34.8	6.8	114.1
South	42,851,180	146.8	31.3	7.2	108.4
West	25,230,910	206.5	30.3	14.1	162.2
Location of residence					
Urban	33,045,250	200.0	37.7	12.7	149.6
Suburban	56,101,350	141.4	24.7	7.7	109.0
Rural	27,964,200	125.1	29.4	4.6	91.1
Homeownership					
Owned	80,293,070	136.5	25.3	6.1	105.1
Rented	36,817,730	192.3	38.6	13.3	140.3

Rates of burglary, motor vehicle theft, and household theft were highest for households located in urban areas. Suburban households were victims of motor vehicle theft and theft at rates higher than those of rural households. Rates of burglary were somewhat higher for rural households than for suburban households but lower than rates of burglary in urban areas.

In 2005 households that owned their home (137 per 1,000) were less likely to experience all types of property crime than households that rented their home (192 per 1,000).

**Table 9. Victim and offender relationship, 2005**

Relationship with victim	Violent crime		Rape/sexual assault		Robbery		Aggravated assault		Simple assault	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Male victims</b>										
Total	3,028,370	100%	15,130	100%*	452,760	100%	665,600	100%	1,894,880	100%
Nonstranger	1,295,870	43%	0	0%*	104,900	23%	282,240	42%	908,740	48%
Intimate	78,180	3	0	0*	14,520	3*	7,460	1*	56,200	3
Other relative	138,390	5	0	0*	9,560	2*	36,920	6	91,910	5
Friend/acquaintance	1,079,310	36	0	0*	80,830	18	237,860	36	760,620	40
Stranger	1,637,700	54%	15,130	100%*	333,390	74%	356,750	54%	932,430	49%
Relationship unknown	94,810	3%	0	0%*	14,470	3%*	26,620	4%*	53,720	3%
<b>Female victims</b>										
Total	2,145,340	100%	176,540	100%	172,090	100%	386,660	100%	1,410,050	100%
Nonstranger	1,382,640	64%	128,440	73%	85,150	50%	240,580	62%	928,470	66%
Intimate	389,100	18	49,980	28	15,480	9*	47,980	12	275,660	20
Other relative	162,760	8	11,880	7*	2,560	2*	35,240	9*	113,070	8
Friend/acquaintance	830,790	39	66,580	38	67,100	39	157,370	41	539,740	38
Stranger	731,450	34%	45,050	26%	81,860	48%	141,080	37%	463,460	33%
Relationship unknown	31,240	2%*	3,050	2%*	5,080	3%*	5,000	1%*	18,120	1%*

Note: Percentages may not total to 100% because of rounding.

\*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

**Table 10. Presence of weapons in violent incidents, 2005**

Presence of offender's weapon	Violent crime		Rape/sexual assault		Robbery		Simple and aggravated assault	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	4,718,330	100%	188,960	100%	569,470	100%	3,959,900	100%
<b>No weapon</b>	3,181,460	67%	159,860	85%	219,090	39%	2,802,510	71%
<b>Weapon</b>	1,146,870	24%	12,310*	7%*	275,210	48%	859,350	22%
Firearm	419,640	9	5,940*	3*	149,820	26	263,880	7
Knife	286,810	6	6,360*	3*	65,290	12	215,150	5
Other	386,440	8	0*	0*	53,670	9	332,770	8
Type not ascertained	53,990	1	0*	0*	6,440*	1*	47,550	1
<b>Don't know</b>	390,000	8%	16,790*	9%*	75,170	13%	298,030	8%

Note: Percentages may not total to 100% because of rounding. If the offender was armed with more than one weapon, the crime is classified based on the most serious weapon present.

\*Based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

## Characteristics of the violent crime incident

### Victim-offender relationship

Historically, females have been most often victimized by someone they knew, while males were more likely to be victimized by a stranger. This finding continued during 2005 (table 9).

Of those offenders victimizing females, 18% were described as intimates and 34% as strangers. In contrast, of those offenders victimizing males, 3% were described as intimates and 54% as strangers. Women reported being raped or sexually assaulted by a friend or acquaintance in 38% of such victimizations.

### Presence of weapons

An estimated 24% of all violent crime incidents were committed by an armed offender (table 10). As in previous years, the presence of a firearm during a violent crime was related to the type of crime. Three percent of rape or sexual assault victimizations, 7% of assault victimizations, and 26% of robberies were committed by an offender with a firearm.

Between 1993 and 2005, the overall rate of firearm violence declined significantly from 5.9 to 2.0 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or older.

The rate of firearm violence increased between 2004 and 2005, from 1.4 to 2.0 victimizations per 1,000 individuals. In 2003 the rate was 1.9 per 1,000 (not shown in table).

	1993	2005
Firearm		
Incidents	1,054,820	419,640
Victimizations	1,248,250	477,040
Firearm crime		
Rate per 1,000 persons 12 or older	5.9	2.0*
Percent of all violent incidents	11.0%	8.9%

\*The 1993-2005 difference is significant at the 95%-confidence level.

### Reporting to the police

During 2005, 47% of all violent victimizations and 40% of all property crimes were reported to the police. The percentage of aggravated assault reported to the police (62%) was higher than the percentage for rape or sexual assault (38%) and simple assault (42%). It was also somewhat higher than that for robbery (52%).

Fifty-six percent of burglaries and 32% of household thefts were reported to the police in 2005. Motor vehicle theft was the property crime most frequently reported to the police (83%).

	Percent of crime reported to the police, 2005
Violent crime	47.4%
Rape/sexual assault	38.3
Robbery	52.4
Aggravated assault	62.4
Simple assault	42.3
Personal theft	35.2%
Property crime	39.6%
Burglary	56.3
Motor vehicle theft	83.2
Theft	32.3

### Reporting and victim characteristics

In 2005, violent crimes against females (55%) were more likely to be reported to police than crimes against males (42%). Rates of reporting for violent victimizations did not differ for males or females across racial and ethnic categories.

Victim gender, race, and Hispanic origin	Percent of crime reported to the police, 2005	
	Violent	Property
Total	47.4%	39.6%
<b>Male</b>	42.4%	40.0%
White	42.8	39.6
Black	41.5	44.0
Other	49.0	37.2
Hispanic	43.5%	37.8%
Non-Hispanic	42.3	40.3
<b>Female</b>	54.6%	39.2%
White	53.9	38.8
Black	58.3	44.7
Other	58.1	30.2
Hispanic	60.3%	36.8%
Non-Hispanic	53.5	39.6

Note: Total includes estimates for persons identifying with two or more races, not shown separately. Racial categories displayed are for persons who identified one race only.

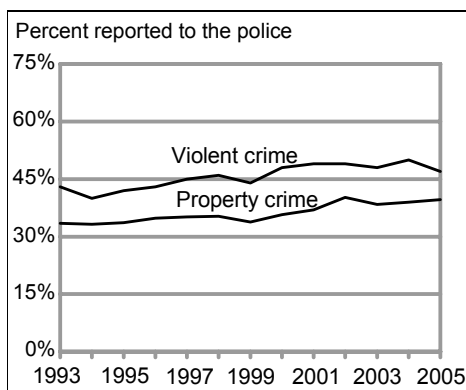


Figure 7

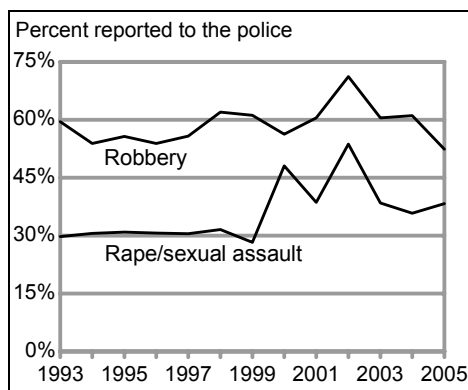


Figure 8

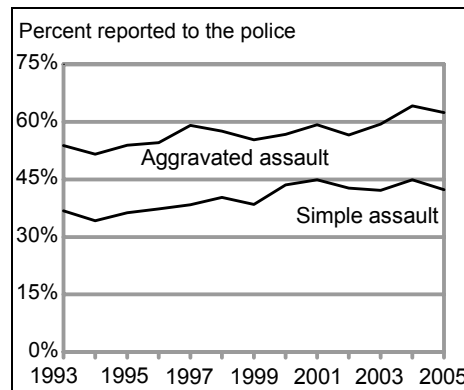


Figure 9

### Reporting crime to the police, 1993-2005

The percentage of violent and property crime reported to the police remained unchanged between 2004 and 2005 (figures 7, 8, and 9).

With the exception of rape or sexual assault and robbery, reporting to the police of violent and property crime increased between 1993 and 2005.

Aggravated assault reported to the police increased from 54% to 62%, and simple assault reported to the police increased from 37% to 42% between 1993 and 2005. During the same period, burglary reported to the police increased from 50% to 56%; motor vehicle theft increased from 75% to 83%; and theft increased from 26% to 32% (figures 10, 11, and 12).

### Methodology

This Bulletin presents data on nonlethal violence and property crimes from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). It also presents data on homicide from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program.

Victimization rates are based on data collected during the calendar year. In 2005, about 77,200 households and 134,000 individuals age 12 or older were interviewed for the NCVS. The response rate was 90.7% of eligible households and 84.3% of eligible individuals.

Since 2003 the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) guidelines mandate that individuals in household surveys be allowed to choose more than one racial category. In prior years they were asked to select a single primary race.

Racial categories presented in this report consist of the following: white only, black only, other race only (American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander if only one of these races is given), and two or more races (all persons of any race indicating two or more races).

Individuals are asked whether they are of Hispanic origin before being asked about their race, and are asked directly if they are of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin.

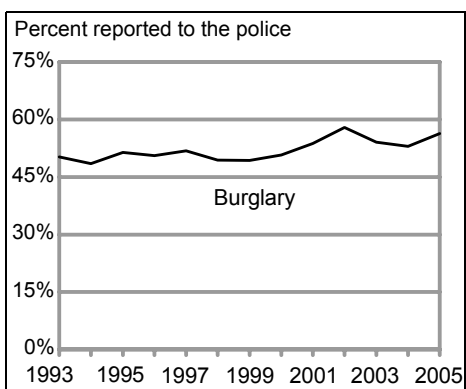


Figure 10

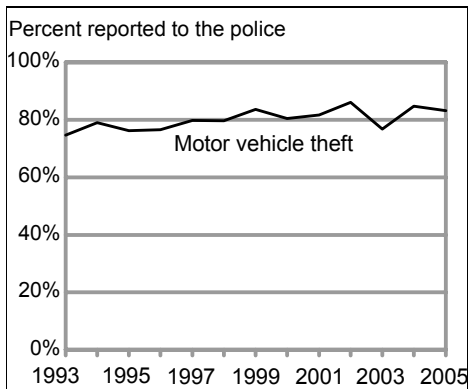


Figure 11

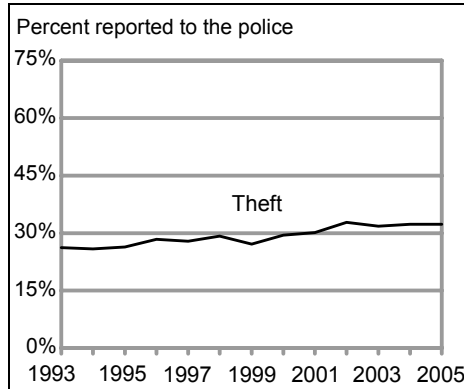


Figure 12



Washington, DC 20531

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### *Standard error computations*

Comparisons of percentages and rates made in this report were tested to determine if observed differences were statistically significant. Differences described as higher, lower, or different passed a test at the 0.05 level of statistical significance (95% confidence level). Differences described as somewhat, slightly, marginally, or some indication passed a test at the 0.10 level of statistical significance (90% confidence level). Caution is required when comparing estimates not explicitly discussed in this Bulletin.

This report in portable document format and in ASCII and its related statistical data and tables — are available at the BJS World Wide Web Internet site: <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>>.

### **Office of Justice Programs**

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